

THE DAILY EXAMINER.

APRIL 14, 1892.

The Budget.

The Provincial Government propose to continue, as long as they can, the only bad feature in the administration of their predecessors. We are to have another deficit—a deficit estimated by Mr. Peters at \$4,000, though everyone knows that it will really be at least twenty times that amount, unless the Government are successful in making another great raid upon the capital of the Province held in the Land Office. So the Province is to sink deeper into debt—and more debentures will, ere long, have to be issued. Already the net interest charge is upwards of \$6,000 a year—a sum which would go far to establish an experimental farm station, or to improve the condition of our wretched roads.

By the way, what about the sale of those debentures? How many were sold, and what did they sell for? The Premier last evening was suspiciously silent upon this point when making his financial statement. He was in a boastful mood, too. He omitted nothing for which he could claim an atom of credit or comfort—but he said not a word as to how much money he dropped in the sale of debentures.

Suspicious Reticence.

Mr. Shaw cleverly took advantage of an occasion when a large number of persons had assembled in the House of Assembly to hear the Budget debate to ventilate the remarkable and very suspicious conduct of the Government in withholding information demanded by the Opposition. Returns from the Land Office, from the Public Works Office, from the Provincial Secretary-Treasurer's Office have been deliberately kept out of the hands of Opposition members, and a very much interested people are still in the dark. Nothing is yet known concerning the sale of debentures. It is known that there has been a great slaughter of Land Office assets, but all the particulars are withheld. The trail of the boodler has been discovered in several of the jobs of the Public Works Department, but further enquiry is blocked by the Commissioner, who will not bring forward the papers. Greatly to the annoyance of the Premier, Mr. Shaw made such good use of his opportunity and of the little light which has been unavoidably afforded him, and criticised the unpopular Minister of Public Works so severely that he was heartily applauded. But the Premier took technical objection against the motion for an address to the Lieutenant-Governor, and so prevented it from passing. Mr. Shaw must only try again. The truth must be brought out, though the Government should strive never so hard to cover it up.

Address to Rev. Mr. DuVernet.

The following is a copy of the address presented last evening to the Rev. Mr. DuVernet, at the close of the mission in St. Paul's Church:

CHARLOTTETOWN, P. E. ISLAND, 13th April, 1892.

THE REVEREND F. H. DUVERNET,  
Reverend and Dear Sir,—At the close of the Mission in connection with Saint Paul's Church, Charlottetown, which you have so kindly conducted during the last eleven days, we, the committee of the Church in connection with it, desire on behalf of ourselves and the congregation to express our thanks to you for your earnest and loving labors and for the faithful way in which you have proclaimed the glad tidings of the Gospel in Jesus Christ. We beg to assure you that we have individually been much strengthened and encouraged in running the Christian course set before us, and we have confident hope and belief that in the hearts of many others your forcible and touching appeals have been as the good seed sown upon the good ground, which will hereafter bring forth fruit to the glory of God.

It has been an additional pleasure to us, in which we are sure all the congregation of Saint Paul's will unite, to have welcomed to our Church during the Mission a large number of our brethren members of other Christian congregations worshipping in Charlottetown, who, we believe and indeed feel assured, have also derived benefit from your earnest addresses, and would have willingly joined with us in so testifying.

We have thought that this expression of our feelings might be acceptable to you at the conclusion of your present labor amongst us, and strengthen and encourage you in your future arduous Mission work; and now that we are about to say farewell, we desire also to express the fervent hope and prayer that the blessing of God may go with you and rest upon you personally and in your work, give you joyous journeying blessings, and take you home safely to your family.

JOSEPH HENSLEY,  
CHAS. PALMER,  
P. L. HASZARD,  
R. H. FITZGERALD,  
W. H. ATKINSON,  
A. R. HASLAM,  
H. J. CENDALL,  
JOHN BALL,  
JOHN A. MESSERVEY,  
SIDNEY GREY.

County Court.

The adjourned sittings of the County Court, after March Term, closed yesterday—the Court having been engaged in hearing unfinished business for the last two days. In McDonald vs. Smallwood—an action for damages against defendant as supervisor for refusing plaintiff a certificate for work done, judgment was given for \$17.40 and costs. In Bennett vs. Mutch—an action for money had and received for \$23.50, in which the question at issue was the amount of a bid or offer by the plaintiff for a field of standing barley at the sale of defendant's crop last autumn, judgment was given for defendant on terms that each party pay his own costs. Stewart for plaintiff; Fitzgerald for defendant. Judgments were read and filed in these cases. A number of motions and orders were also heard and other unfinished business disposed of.

Provincial Legislature.

THE BUDGET.

OUR PREMIER'S EXPOSITION

Hon Mr. McLeod's Pointed Reply.

Another Heavy Deficit Inevitable.

Extraordinary Compounding of Compound Interest.

The Trail of the Boodler.

APRIL 13  
Mr. A. McLeod submitted a bill to amend the Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at Montserrat. The bill to prohibit the sale of cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco to minors was further considered in committee and was reported agreed to with amendments. The bill to amend the Town of Summerside Incorporation Act was read a second time and committed.

Mr. Rogers asked the Commissioner of Crown Lands whether, before taking the balances of the Township Ledger in the annual statement as balance due on the 31st of December, 1891, he caused the entries for the year in the township ledgers to be compared item by item with the corresponding entries in the counterpart receipts and daily cash book; and if so whether check marks were made in the said Township Ledgers counterpart receipt books and daily cash books to denote that the credit was only made.

Hon. Mr. McMillan said that he would reply to-morrow.  
Mr. McKay asked the Leader of the Government whether the Government have opened any correspondence or taken any action with a view to the purchase of the estates owned by Mrs. W. S. Smith, and thereby give the tenants thereon an opportunity of owning the fee simple of the farms they live on.

Hon. Mr. Peters replied that the Government have communicated with the person referred to, and it was hoped that the estate would be purchased.  
Mr. Warburton submitted a bill to incorporate the Park Corner Hall Company. Mr. Beatty asked the Leader of the Government to lay on the table of this House a copy of all correspondence between the Leader of the Government and John McCull, late Inspector of Licenses for Prince County, relative to his (McCull's) claims against the Government for salary and expenses under the Canada Temperance Act. A copy of McCull's bill for expenses, etc., a statement of how much has been paid him during the past year and up to April 1st, 1892, and how much he claims to be still due; also, how much has been collected as fines and penalties under the Canada Temperance Act, since the first of May, 1891, and from whom collected.

Hon. Mr. Peters replied that the correspondence would be laid upon the table. Mr. McCull demands payment of \$800 for services rendered while the late government was in office.

EVENING SESSION—THE BUDGET.

Hon. Mr. Peters, in moving that the House go into committee of supply, said that as usual on such occasions he would say a few words on the financial and general condition of the Province. When the present Government came into power they found themselves face to face with difficulties not of their own seeking. They found that a debt of \$171,000 was staring them in the face, upon nearly all of which amount the late Government was paying interest. The first promise they made was to meet this debt question, and effect an improvement. The result of this promise was the passing of the debenture bill, notwithstanding the bitter opposition of the gentlemen on the other side of the House. The amount of money they authorized them to raise was \$185,000. They sold the debentures and raised the money, and met the difficulty. The result is that they can say to-day what no Government has been able to say since 1883, that they have money to the credit of the Province bearing interest. Then he reviewed the Land Office policy. When the present Government came into power, said he, they found that office in a bad state. The accounts were not so large as they should have been, accounts were left uncollected, and disbursements had taken place, and the people generally had lost confidence in the institution. The Government said this thing must stop. This money must be collected. A bill was passed offering discounts to those who paid up within certain dates, and the result of the holding out of this inducement was that the sum of \$72,000 was collected in 1891 against \$24,000 in 1890. The Government looked about for a man who would attend to the duties of the office, and he thought they had secured such a man in the person of the present Commissioner of Crown Lands. For the successful carrying out of the Government's Land Office policy he would give the whole credit to the present Commissioner. The Government had been charged with collecting compound interest from one man and not from another, and were told that they were not acting in a consistent manner. But what did the late Government do? In 1890 the then Commissioner of Crown Lands asked the Leader of the Government (Mr. Neil McLeod) for his opinion as to whether, in a certain instance he should or should not exact compound interest. The reply was that compound interest could not be legally collected, but the Commissioner was to collect it if he could. Was this consistent? He (Mr. Peters) defended, however, that in certain cases compound interest was not illegal, and claimed that the present Government's course in this respect was quite legal and consistent. The Government also found many other matters that needed adjusting, and took hold of them and effected improvements. They saw that considerable money was expended in the administration of justice, which might be saved, and passed a bill doing away with trial by jury in certain cases upon the payment of a small fee. This change in the law had worked satisfactorily and a considerable saving was effected. Then, too, it was found that the Registry Office was in a bad state, and

they had to effect a reform here also. It was now in a very efficient state. The result was found that a number of small bills which should have been paid in 1890 were held over for payment in 1891. If these bills had been paid in 1890, as they should have been, the credit of that year would have been larger by several thousand dollars. In the matter of wharves he was a little astray in his estimates last year. In 1890 the expenditure on wharves was \$9,814.81. The then Commissioner of Public Works told the House that because of the expenditure of this large sum in that year the amount to be expended in 1891 would not be large. He took him at his word, and put \$5,000 in the estimates for wharves in 1891. But it was found that this amount was too small. The work the late Government did they had done had not been done at all. The present Government had to expend the sum of \$17,380.83 on wharves since last year. He was proud of this expenditure, however, and believed that the country would bear him out in it. The Southport wharf, Prince Street ferry wharf, and Rocky Point wharf were among the structures which had received attention. A good deal of money had also been expended in putting the Prince of Wales College building in order. The College was for the benefit of the people and he felt sure the people would endorse the expenditure. For all of these expenditures the Government had something to show. It was such items as these that made up the deficit for the year. Then, too, the \$500 which the Government had to pay for sending Senator Howland to England had not been refunded by the Dominion Government, as it was said it would be, and there were also other debts to pay which the Government was not responsible for. He was also mistaken in the matter of the increase of population, and the amount that would be received on that account. More people were leaving the Province than were coming in. He then proceeded to review the estimates of expenditure for the year (which have already been published) making explanations in reference to certain items, and claiming that the estimates were honest ones. He said the Government had done their best to enforce the Scott Act, and were very successful. In some parts of the Province liquor selling had been stamped out entirely. But the carrying out of this law required money. The prosecutions had to be paid and the costs of prosecutions had to be met. The Government proposed to protect the prosecutors and not have them sent to jail for costs, as had been done in the past. He proposed to ask the House to do something practical in the matter. He would ask them to vote \$1000 to carry out the set \$600 for the inspectors' salaries, and \$400 to cover costs. The law must be carried out. The estimate of \$12,500 for legislation, a trifling larger than the amount of last year, he did not consider so great in view of the importance of the legislation enacted. As for the amount of \$500 for telephone extension, he thought the people would bear him out in the expenditure, as the telephone was a great convenience. The Government are also determined to make improvements on the Stock Farm. They expect to be able to get enough milk from the cows thereon to supply the Hospital for the Insane. It was also proposed to offer a bonus of \$350 to dairy associations through out the Province, and in short to do everything in their power to advance the farmers' interests. Last year some items of expenditure got into the estimates that should have been charged against capital, and which would be charged against capital in future. Improvements that are to benefit the country for ten or twenty years ought not to be paid for in one year. For instance, at the Hospital for the Insane last year improvements were made at a cost of \$1000 that will make the place as good as when built—that will last for a number of years. The total amount of the estimates of expenditure for the year is \$267,444. He estimated the revenue for the year at \$263,280. He then showed where the revenue was to come from. The amounts include: Dominion subsidy, \$182,500; Land Office, \$67,000; Provincial Secretary's Office, \$1,000; Penitentiary Office, \$3,000; Registrar of Deeds, \$5,000; ferries, \$5,200. The estimates were honest ones. There was no specific sum in the estimates for a new steamer for the Southport ferry, but one would have to be built, as the present one was too old and was not up to the requirements of the times. In conclusion, he said the Government had made every effort to carry out their promises and invited a comparison of the policy of his administration and that of their predecessors.

THE REPLY.

The Leader of the Opposition said it was really wonderful how much the Leader of the Government could say about very little. His boasts concerning what he was going to do for our young men and women, and his introduction of a measure to destroy the value of their votes. His boast that the Province owes no debts must seem vain and false in view of the debentures which he has set about. The Premier is like the man who, being threatened with legal proceedings, came to an arrangement with his creditor by signing his note of hand, and said as he did so, "Thank God, that debt's paid." It is, however, certain that the Province must liquidate every cent of the debenture debt. Last year, the Government employed experts, and trumped up an enormous balance against the Province, when they took office, of \$171,000; and then they took power to issue debentures for \$185,000—or \$14,000 in addition to the alleged balance. It was freely admitted that the Land Fund of \$800,000 had been inequitably administered. For instance, Mr. Davies had purchased an estate for about \$5 an acre, which had been sold to the tenants for \$2.50. As to compound interest, the late Government had treated everyone alike. He believed it to be equitable and right, though it could not be legally collected in some cases. One of those cases—only one—had arisen while the late Government was in office; and he had advised that the compound interest could not be collected. A similar case had arisen while Mr. Davies was in office and Mr. Davies was forced to issue a deed on payment of the purchase money and simple interest. But he rightly received compound interest in other cases, and the late Government followed his example. But how has the present Government acted in respect to it. First of all, Mr. Bell was put up to say in the Legislature that compound interest is illegal, and to put the people on their guard against paying it.

Then, those of the people who were unacquainted with the Government's methods, were permitted to pay it in full, while to those who said that they would not pay it, it was remitted in the most extraordinary and inequitable way. For instance, of the constituents of the member for West River who paid money into the land office, R. Hogan owed \$54.04 and paid \$45.20; Duncan Macdonald owed \$678.59 and paid only \$135.33—the compound interest remitted in this case amounting to \$48.23 and the discount to \$25.03; William Ross owed \$126.27 and paid only \$109.96; Archibald Macdonald owed \$107.32 and paid only \$75.96; Donald McEachern owed \$315.28 and paid only \$275.00; Henry Smith owed \$228.79 and paid only \$173.24. These are a few of many instances. No wonder the Land Office has been a fruitful source of revenue! In several of these cases 12 per cent. discount was taken off after the expiration of the date authorized by the Legislature, and the compound interest remitted was calculated on the gross amount of the debt at the time of payment—a most extraordinary kind of bookkeeping. The Government seems to have been ready to accept any sum that was offered by certain persons—to give away any amount, great as their need of ready money, and all the people who paid in full have to bear their proportion of loss to the Province. The balance at the land office on the 31st December, 1890, was \$411,890.67. One year's interest (\$20,594) together with the amount of the principal The Land Office's speech cost (\$8,873) added to this amount would raise it, at the end of last year, to \$438,905.67. But it appears by the Land Commissioner's report that the total amount uncollected at that date is only \$347,938.70—a falling off of \$90,966.97. And the expenses of the Land Office, \$2,146.90, and it will be seen that it cost about 2 1/2 per cent. to collect the amounts paid into the Land Office last year. About 53,000 of capital were taken out of the Land Office last year—a larger waste of capital than in any previous year. Mr. Peters boasted of what the Government had done to extend the telephone system—he knows perfectly well that it was the late Government which introduced that system. He boasts of what he is going to do to advance dairying—by means of bonuses to dairy associations amounting to \$350, which divided among the various districts of the Province will give them about \$10 each. The amount of what the Government had done to extend the telephone system—he knows perfectly well that it was the late Government which introduced that system. He boasts of what he is going to do to advance dairying—by means of bonuses to dairy associations amounting to \$350, which divided among the various districts of the Province will give them about \$10 each. The poor honest man cost \$133. Last year the administration of justice cost \$18,973, and the criminal docket was very light; this year the estimate under that head is \$15,487, or nearly \$3,500 less. Last year the education cost \$113,022.98; this year the estimate is \$111,510, though the number of schools will probably be larger than smaller. There is to be a reduction of \$560,74 in the cost of the Hospital for the Insane; it is expected that the lunatics will be less! The poor honest man cost \$133. Last year the administration of justice cost \$18,973, and the criminal docket was very light; this year the estimate under that head is \$15,487, or nearly \$3,500 less. 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